

**New Shoreham Town Council Agenda
Town Hall, Old Town Road, Block Island
Wednesday, July 21, 2010
7:00 p.m.**

Present:

First Warden Kimberley H. Gaffett, Second Warden Raymond J. Torrey, Town Councilor Peter B. Baute, Town Councilor Kenneth C. Lacoste, Town Councilor Richard P. Martin. Also present was Town Manager Nancy O. Dodge. Town Clerk Fiona Fitzpatrick was present to take the minutes of the meeting.

Warden's Report:

First Warden Gaffett reported the renovations of the North Light have been completed. She commended Rob Gilpin for doing a tremendous job on a truly herculean task.

The PUC heard arguments today regarding the motions to dismiss the Deepwater Wind Docket No. 4185. No decision at this time. The PUC will hold a public hearing at the School tomorrow. Evidentiary hearings will begin July 26. The Town's expert Richard LaCapra will testify on the 27th and his cross examination will be August 4. Hearings may be viewed at the School via polycom.

Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Roberts will be on the Island Friday to meet with citizens. The Block Island Triathlon will be July 31 beginning 3:30, so expect delays in traveling Corn Neck Road and watch for bikes on the west side. The Harbor Church Fair will be July 24.

Public Input:

There was no comment from the public.

1. Public Hearings:

- Consider amendments to New Shoreham's General Ordinances Chapter 17 Taxation and Finance, Article II Exemptions, Division 3 Veteran's Exemptions, Section 17-56 'Authority' and Section 17-56 'Effective Date'

Finance Director Amy Land explained the amount of the veteran's exemption correlates to the valuation of the town's grand list. The 2009 statistical revaluation found the grand list lost 21% of its value. This amendment would reduce the veteran's exemption commensurately from \$223,694 to \$183,356. The adjustment assures that veterans and their spouses will continue to receive the same amount of property tax relief: \$839.77. The total impact on taxpayers is \$102,000. Ms. Land recommended two changes to the advertised language for clarification. American Legion President Dan Millea was present and spoke with appreciation for Tax Assessor's Clerk Lisa Ommerle, who explained the process to him prior to the meeting. Mr. Millea thanked the Council for keeping the veteran's exemption intact in difficult economic times.

First Warden Gaffett moved to adopt the amendment to New Shoreham's General Ordinances Chapter 17 Taxation and Finance, Article II Exemptions, Division 3 Veteran's Exemptions, Section 17-56 'Authority' and Section 17-56 'Effective Date' with two further changes to the advertised notice to strike the phrase 'a maximum of' and to correct the amount of the exemption to \$183,356.

Motion was seconded by Dr. Baute.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

- Consider amendments to New Shoreham's General Ordinances Chapter 17 Taxation and Finance, Article II Exemptions, to add a new Division 4, Motor Vehicles, Section 60 Excise Tax Reduction.

Finance Director Amy Land explained the proposed amendment. State law exempted the first \$6,000 of every vehicle. This year the state reduced the exempted amount to \$500. Ms. Land recommended the amendment because a \$6,000 exemption was calculated into the Town's tax levy approved at Financial Town Meeting. The amendment under consideration would create a local motor vehicle tax exemption in the amount of \$5,500.

Dr. Baute moved to approve the advertised amendment which adds a new Section 4-60 to the Town Ordinances, motion seconded by Mr. Lacoste.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

2. Receive and Act on letter from Deepwater Wind re: Special Temporary Permit for meteorological equipment at the North Light and Coast Guard Station

A copy of the letter is attached to these minutes. Deepwater Wind's local liaison Bryan Wilson and equipment specialist Rob Gilpin were present. Last year the Town Council issued Special Temporary Permits for Town land to allow Deepwater to deploy their equipment, and the permits were renewed after six months. Mr. Wilson presented Deepwater's request for new STP's to continue Deepwater's study of the wind resource.

Dr. Baute moved to grant Special Temporary Permits to Deepwater Wind to for deployment of equipment at the North Light and Coast Guard Station in accordance with their letter of July 14, 2010. Motion was seconded by Second Warden Torrey.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

3. Act on proposed ballot questions re: Town of New Shoreham Charter

The resolution is attached to these minutes.

First Warden Gaffett moved to adopt the resolution to authorize the addition of Charter amendment questions to the ballot on November 2, 2010. The motion was seconded by Second Warden Torrey.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

4. Consider and act on request of LNG WG to adopt a TNS Resolution re: Hess Weaver's Cove LNG Offshore proposal

Due to the inclement weather, no one was present to address the issue.

5. Receive and act on TNS Police Department monthly report: June

The report is attached to these minutes. Fewer alarms were reported.

Councilor Baute moved to accept the June, 2010 report of the New Shoreham Police Department, seconded by Mr. Lacoste.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

6. Receive and act on letter from TNS Building Official re: Notice of Violation at Plat 7 Lot 74 (John and Kelly Leone)

First Warden Gaffett reported the Building Official said the issue may be resolved before morning. She recommended acting on the authorization with the hope that it will not be needed.

Ms. Gaffett moved to authorize the Building Official to work with the Town Solicitor to take legal action in accordance with his memorandum of July 9, 2010. Motion seconded by Second Warden Torrey.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

7. Minutes: June 7, 2010, June 16, 2010, July 6, 2010, July 12, 2010

Minor changes were made to the minutes.

Second Warden Torrey moved to approve the minutes with the changes discussed, seconded by Councilor Lacoste.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

At 8:30, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Second Warden Torrey.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

Minutes approved August 18, 2010

Fiona Fitzpatrick
Town Clerk